

ARIZONA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 10, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: By week’s end, 73 percent of Arizona cotton had been harvested, up 22 percentage points from the State’s 5-year average, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Alfalfa hay harvest continued to take place on just under 70 percent of the crop’s acreage throughout the State. Arizona’s alfalfa crop was rated in mostly good to excellent condition, with only 2 percent of the crop rated fair. Pasture and range conditions throughout the State deteriorated slightly when compared to that of the previous report. Thirty-nine percent of the State’s pasture and rangeland was rated very poor, 25 percent was rated poor, 22 percent was rated fair, and 14 percent was rated good. As of November 10, the National Drought Mitigation Center’s Vegetation Drought Response Index (VegDRI) showed that the vegetative conditions of rangelands generally improved when compared to that of the conditions reported on October 27. Excluding the Juniper Mountains, northern Mohave County, and the San Francisco Plateau in Navajo and Apache Counties, the vegetative conditions of northern rangelands improved and was rated from very moist to severe drought with the best conditions concentrated in the Painted Desert, southeastern Apache County, the Defiance Plateau, the Chinle Valley, and areas just north of the Little Colorado River in Navajo and Apache Counties. The vegetative conditions of southwestern rangelands improved slightly and was rated from near-normal to severe drought with the worst conditions reported in areas south of the Gila River in Yuma County. Rangeland vegetative conditions throughout southeastern counties also improved and was rated from near-normal to severe drought with the worst conditions concentrated in west-central Cochise and south-central Pima Counties. The improvement in rangeland vegetative condition throughout southeastern counties was mainly caused by a shift in rating from pre-drought stress to near-normal levels. Topsoil moisture levels remained mostly adequate, with 16 percent rated very short, 14 percent rated short, 62 percent rated adequate, and 8 percent rated surplus. Subsoil moisture levels followed a similar trend.

Over the past week, measurable precipitation was experienced across northeastern Arizona while remaining areas of the State stayed relatively dry. According to data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), northern areas of the Defiance Plateau as well as the Chuska and San Francisco Mountains received the most precipitation, accumulating approximately 0.75 inch, while other areas of the State received anywhere from trace amounts to 0.50 inch of total precipitation. The seasonal mean temperature outlook continues to show that temperatures will likely be above normal for the entirety of the State, with the eastern two-thirds of Arizona having a higher probability of experiencing warmer temperatures than the remaining third of the State. Similarly, the seasonal total precipitation outlook continues to show that precipitation will likely be below normal for the entirety of the State, with southeastern regions having a higher probability of experiencing below average precipitation than remaining areas of the State. Arizona’s seasonal drought outlook continues to show that conditions are expected to persist throughout all areas of the State that were affected by moderate drought (D1) or higher on October 29. Drought development is expected across all remaining areas of the State. Streamflow conditions throughout the State improved slightly when compared to that of the previous report. Streamflow in many portions of the Salt, Upper Gila, and San Pedro River Basins continues to be rated below normal as precipitation continues to be erratic. Contrastingly, streamflow conditions in the Lower Gila, Verde, Santa Cruz, Little, Lower, and Upper Colorado River Basins continue to be rated normal. As of November 5, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed no change when compared to that of the previous report. Abnormally dry conditions (D0) spanned 33 percent of the State, moderate drought (D1) enveloped 26 percent, and severe drought (D2) encompassed 27 percent of the State’s total land area. Arizona once again remained free of extreme (D3) and exceptional (D4) drought. Over the past week, temperatures were below normal according to the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Daytime highs throughout Arizona ranged from 6 to 15 degrees below normal and ranged from the low 40’s in southern Apache County to 80 degrees across southwestern regions of the State. Overnight lows ranged from 3 to 15 degrees below normal and ranged from 15 to 35 degrees across northern and eastern counties, whereas counties within the Sonoran Desert experienced lows of 40 to 55 degrees Fahrenheit.

CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Cotton Harvested.....	73	72	49	51

NA – not available
 (–) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork	7.0	6.0	7.0	6.9
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	16	7	9	4
Short	14	5	6	14
Adequate.....	62	83	84	82
Surplus.....	8	5	1	--
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	15	6	10	3
Short	13	5	5	13
Adequate.....	64	84	84	84
Surplus.....	8	5	1	--

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

CROP, PASTURE, AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor.....	--	--	1	1
Poor.....	--	--	--	3
Fair	2	6	6	11
Good	32	40	37	39
Excellent.....	66	54	56	46
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	39	32	21	22
Poor.....	25	33	32	27
Fair	22	18	31	31
Good	14	15	14	15
Excellent.....	--	2	2	5

NA – not available
 (--) – zero